

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

H.R. 458

HON. WALTER B. JONES

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 14, 2005

Mr. JONES of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, Title Two of H.R. 458 is most important to those of us who represent districts with a heavy military presence.

It regulates so-called "military lenders," and protects servicemembers from abusive marketing and collection practices by high-cost lenders that are typically clustered outside of military installations, and who increasingly operate on the Internet. It also regulates title lenders and high-cost lenders that charge hidden fees and who frequently refinance loans to generate even more fees. Importantly, it codifies industry best practices rules for payday advance lenders.

Today's Armed Forces are the most effective in the history of the world. They have the same credit needs as the rest of us, but are uniquely vulnerable to abusive marketing and collection practices.

Many of the young men and women who have volunteered to serve in our military have limited experience in handling financial matters. They have relatively low incomes and can easily fall into debt and have to borrow to help pay expenses. Quite often, they have difficulty borrowing from traditional lenders and have to seek higher-cost credit from specialty lenders such as small loan companies, payday lenders, or finance companies. When relatively unsophisticated borrowers are unable to readily repay a loan from these lenders, they can become consumed with worries over their debt and this undercuts their abilities to fulfill their military duties.

Mr. Speaker, the New York Times pointed out abusive lending practices by companies like Pioneer Financial, a Missouri-based high-cost lender which exclusively targets services members, and according to Securities and Exchange Commission filings, employs a loophole to get around the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act (SCRA). According to that paper, Pioneer charges high rates and hidden fees and has the policy of refinancing their existing loans within the first year for the express purpose of generating more fees. Unfortunately, it's not just one company like Pioneer that requires servicemembers to prey on our Armed Forces personnel. Various types of creditors, including finance companies, small loan companies, payday lenders and others, have perpetrated abusive lending practices.

That is why this legislation, and Title Two in particular, is so important. Our men and women in uniform have earned the protections that H.R. 458 will provide them.

TRIBUTE TO THOMAS CARR

HON. CHRIS VAN HOLLEN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 14, 2005

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I rise to commend one of my constituents, Thomas Carr, recipient of a fellowship to attend Harvard University's Senior Executives in State and Local Government Program at the John F. Kennedy School of Government.

As Chief of Montgomery County (MD) Fire and Rescue Service, Mr. Carr works to protect the community and educate the residents on safety precautions and fire prevention. His efforts were recognized by the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA), a primary supporter of the fellowship. Since 1896, the Association has been a leader promoting fire, electrical, building, and life safety awareness.

Mr. Carr, likewise, has been a leader in promoting fire, electrical, building, and life safety awareness to the citizens of our community. I applaud Thomas Carr and wish him continued success in the years ahead.

IN HONOR OF JOE NUCCI

HON. SAM FARR

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 14, 2005

Mr. FARR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the memory of a man who was a rising star in the fresh produce industry. At age forty, Joe Nucci was one of the youngest leaders in his field. Tragically, Joe passed away suddenly July 7, 2005, while vacationing with his family in Florida.

Joe was born and raised in Salinas, California. In 1983, he graduated from Salinas High School and went on to study for two years at Hartnell College. He completed his college education at California State University Chico and spent a year in Buffalo, New York working with JC Brock Fresh Foods. In 1989, Nucci returned to California to take a position at Mann Packing Company, which was run by his father, Don Nucci, and his father's business partner Bill Ramsey.

One of Joe's first achievements at Mann Packing Company was finding a new use for a previously unpalatable product: broccoli stems. Impressing his coworkers and superiors with a new bagged broccoli coleslaw, it wasn't long before he advanced to Mann Packing Company's product development and quality assurance division, then to the position of vice president of marketing. In 2000, he became president and CEO of the Mann Packing Company. Under his leadership, the company grew at an unprecedented rate and became one of the produce industry's strongest innovators. The Produce Marketing Association recognized Joe's fairness, integrity, and

innumerable talents and invited him to serve on their Board of Directors as secretary/treasurer. He was to become its chairman in 2006. His contributions to the United Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Association, the Produce for Better Health Foundation, and the International Fresh-cut Produce Association will not long be forgotten either.

Joe Nucci made tremendous strides to better his industry, local community, and our Nation. He will be remembered for his innovation, his leadership, and his devotion to his family. He is survived by his wife, Debbie; two sons, Michael and Matthew; three sisters, Lorri Nucci Koster, Gina Nucci, and DeDe Nucci Reyna; father Don Nucci; and mother Barbara Manning. Mr. Speaker, it is with great sadness that I rise to honor the memory of Joe Nucci.

TRIBUTE TO CAROLYN DULCHINOS

HON. MARK UDALL

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 14, 2005

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to and acknowledge the outstanding work of Carolyn Dulchinos, a Senior Policy Advisor for the Boulder County Board of Commissioners. This month, she will be leaving this position that she has served with distinction for over 10 years.

Ms. Dulchinos is a shining example of the dedication and commitment to public service and community values held by those who work in the public sector. Early on in her career—a career that is still young and filled with future promise—she was drawn to the calling of public service and has followed this path ever since.

In the mid-1980s, she worked as a staff assistant in the office of Congressman PETE STARK from California. She remained in Washington and worked for the American Association of Retired Persons and the National Association of Trial Lawyers. She also worked for a prestigious lobbying firm in Washington where she helped clients work through issues before Federal agencies. At this position, she also helped draft and enact legislation for the minting of commemorative coins to honor the 50th Anniversary of the D-Day invasion of Normandy. This is but a small yet significant example of her focus on the general public good that has defined her career up to now.

Since she began work for Boulder County in the spring of 1995, Ms. Dulchinos applied her skills and spirit of service to the citizens of this diverse and vibrant community. During her time with Boulder County she worked tirelessly with Boulder County's State legislative representatives to promote wise public policy at the Colorado State legislature. Through this work, she was instrumental in helping the Colorado legislature develop and fund innovative human service programs, such as a program called Impact. This program provides coordinated human services to help children at risk

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

of institutionalization remain in their own communities where they become productive citizens. She has also worked on issues of importance to Boulder County with Colorado's congressional delegation, such as the cleanup and closure of the former Rocky Flats nuclear weapons production facility, open space protection on Federal public lands in the county, and critical transportation funding needs.

Ms. Dulchinos also worked on and succeeded in accomplishing environmentally and economically sustainable administrative actions at Boulder County and legislation on multimodal transportation, land use, and open space, among many others. She has been a tremendous asset to the Board of County Commissioners and a workhorse for the office. She has the ability to simplify complex issues, get to the crux of an issue and communicate this effectively to decisionmakers and the public. She is known for her sense of humor and for her efforts to boost the morale and collegiality of the office through her memorable events commemorating employees' birthdays, going away parties, and retirements.

Although Ms. Dulchinos is leaving the county, I know that she will continue to be a contributing member of the community. She has a bright future ahead and I wish her the very best in her future endeavors.

IN HONOR OF SERGEANT KIP
JACOBY

HON. E. CLAY SHAW, JR.

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 14, 2005

Mr. SHAW. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a courageous young man who died while serving our country in the war in Afghanistan.

Sergeant Kip Jacoby was a 21-year-old Florida resident who is described by his classmates as someone with a brilliant smile and perfect charm. He joined the Army a few short months after high school graduation and has served our Nation for three years as a member of the Special Forces "Night Stalkers". Kip loved his country and served honorably. On the Army's Web site, his family posted a message stating, "He loved what he was doing, he knew the risks, and he was proud to be a soldier, fighting, so others wouldn't have to."

On June 28, 2005, Kip was one of 16 soldiers whose helicopter was hit by an insurgent's rocket-propelled grenade. He was part of an elite American military team that was on mission to clear anti-governmental forces from Kumar Province of eastern Afghanistan. Kip Jacoby was awarded the Purple Heart posthumously.

Mr. Speaker, the people of this Nation will be forever grateful for Kip's selfless sacrifice and valiant service to our country. He died to protect freedom for America and to provide freedom for millions around the globe.

Sergeant Jacoby's distinguished service and commitment to freedom will never be forgotten.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ADAM B. SCHIFF

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 14, 2005

Mr. SCHIFF. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 362, had I been present, I would have voted "aye."

HONORING THE HOMER HIGH
SCHOOL BASEBALL TEAM FOR
THEIR RECORD-SETTING SEASON

HON. JOHN J.H. "JOE" SCHWARZ

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 14, 2005

Mr. SCHWARZ of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, it is my special privilege to honor the Homer Trojans baseball team for setting the national record for consecutive wins in high school baseball by winning 75 straight games. I commend the Trojans for the dedication required to accomplish such a remarkable feat.

The Trojans' streak began on opening day of the 2004 season with a victory over Addison. The team would eventually earn a State championship, with a record of 38 wins to zero losses. During the season, Homer shut out 20 opponents.

The Trojans continued to dominate the diamond in the 2005 season. Improving on their 2004 record, the Trojans shut out 21 opponents in 2005, a national record. They also had a streak of eight consecutive shutouts, which etched the team in the State record book again. The Trojans ended the 2005 season with a 37-1 record and a runner-up finish in the State.

In the world of sports, success is often determined based on wins and losses. However, the Trojans are not just a success for winning 75 consecutive games; they are a success because of the manner in which they win. Their astounding record is testament to not only their ability to pitch, hit, run, and field; it is indicative of their superb commitment to teamwork and maturity. The lessons they learned and skills they perfected will help prepare them for a bright future, whether it be on or off the baseball field. I am honored to have these fine young men as constituents, and I invite my colleagues to join me in honoring their accomplishments.

TRIBUTE TO MONTGOMERY
COUNTY

HON. CHRIS VAN HOLLEN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 14, 2005

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I rise today to commend Montgomery County for its commitment to recycling.

The Montgomery County Recycling Center received the 2005 Material Recovery Facility of the Year Award. This is the second time in 5 years that Montgomery County has received this award from the Solid Waste Processing Division of the American Society of Mechanical Engineers (ASME).

The criteria needed to receive this award include the facility's success in reaching its goals, environmental performance and safety, and the facility's role in solid waste processing and integrated waste management.

The plant is estimated to generate about \$3,000,000 in revenue for fiscal year 2005. In addition, the plant underwent a processing system equipment overhaul in the summer of 2002 which increased its efficiency.

Recycling is a vital part of our effort to preserve our environment for future generations. I am very proud of Montgomery County's success in this area and I applaud the community leaders and citizens for their dedication to recycling.

IN HONOR OF EDNA KIMBRO

HON. SAM FARR

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 14, 2005

Mr. FARR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Edna Kimbro, State Parks Historian and architectural conservator. On June 26, 2005, Edna Kimbro, 57, died of cancer at her Watsonville residence. She is survived by her husband Joe, sons David and Joey, brother Todd, and granddaughter Sakura.

Ms. Kimbro was born on June 25, 1948. She graduated from the University of California Santa Cruz with a degree in Art History. In the 1970s, Kimbro bought the last remaining building of an early civilian Spanish settlement and began preserving it as best her finances would allow. In 1998 Kimbro, along with her husband and two sons, purchased a 150 year old adobe home in Watsonville, CA. To preserve the building, she traveled to Europe on a United Nations grant to study the earthquake resistant preservation of old mud brick based buildings. Sadly shortly after she returned home, the Lorna Prieta earthquake destroyed the 150 year old adobe home. This unfortunate event did not daunt her. Edna convinced State administrators to buy the damaged adobe, repair the damage, and create a State park.

Mr. Speaker, I am joined by Edna Kimbro's family and mends to honor her life and contributions to the preservation of California's history. Her memory will always be preserved in our minds, just as the adobe structures she worked so tirelessly to preserve.

INTRODUCTION OF THE UNITED
STATES ARMY RELIEF ACT

HON. MARK UDALL

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 14, 2005

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, yesterday I introduced a bill with my colleague in the House, Representative ELLEN TAUSCHER, to increase the end-strength of the Army. A companion bill was introduced in the Senate by Senators LIEBERMAN, CLINTON, REED, NELSON, and SALAZAR. I am grateful to Sen. LIEBERMAN and Rep. TAUSCHER for their leadership on this issue, and to the Third Way organization for its recent report on this issue and its help on this bill.

We are introducing this legislation at a critical time for our military. The war in Iraq has put a tremendous strain on our Army, the Reserves and on National Guard units that were never intended for such long deployments, and ought to be used more effectively for homeland security.

There is deepening concern that our current force requirements cannot be sustained in Iraq and Afghanistan without depleting our reserves and diminishing our capacity to meet other global threats.

I am one who believes we have more work to do to thoroughly understand these other global threats and the strategies and tactics necessary to prepare for the kind of conflict we are facing in Iraq. The upcoming Pentagon defense review needs to look at increased troops levels in the context of our long-term security needs as well as the immediate challenges.

But in the meantime, the Bush Administration's lack of foresight in Iraq has left us with an immediate problem that cannot be ignored. Our troops are overstretched—not just in Iraq and Afghanistan but in 117 other countries around the world. Last year, nine of the Army's ten divisions were deployed to, preparing to deploy to, or returning from Iraq and Afghanistan. And we continue to rely too heavily on our Guard and Reserve.

Without this bill, we risk asking too much of our men and women in uniform who have performed so courageously and sacrificed so much in their service to this country. They, future recruits, and the country all need to know that we are committed to providing the resources necessary to keep our Army strong.

Let me emphasize that this is not about increasing troops so that President Bush can plan for more Iraqs; this is about rebuilding the strength of the incredible institution that is the U.S. Army.

Leadership begins with recognizing reality. Although we may wish we had a different starting place, this is the place that we find ourselves after much miscalculation and wishful-thinking by the Bush Administration.

So we ask the Administration today to heed our call and to heed the call of so many in the military community who understand the importance of increasing the Army's end strength. The defense of the United States is and must continue to be the first priority of our government.

IN HONOR OF PETTY OFFICER 2ND
CLASS JAMES SUH

HON. E. CLAY SHAW, JR.

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 14, 2005

Mr. SHAW. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Petty Officer 2nd Class James Suh, a South Florida resident who served in the Navy for 5 years and was killed in the line of duty on June 28th, 2005, in Afghanistan. During his years at Deerfield Beach High School and the University of Florida, James excelled both athletically and academically finding himself with a rare opportunity to become a Navy Seal shortly after graduation from college.

James was loved by an entire community. His family and friends say he was a young man of exceptional character, intelligence and

athleticism with a wry smile and unfalteringly dry sense of humor. Those who knew him saw his immense pride in two things: his close knit family and his job as a U.S. Navy Seal.

Roughly two weeks ago James was one of 16 soldiers whose helicopter was hit by an insurgent's rocket-propelled grenade. He was part of an elite American military team that was on a mission to clear anti-governmental forces from Kumar Province in Eastern Afghanistan. Sadly, our country lost 16 heroes that day.

Mr. Speaker, the family and friends of Petty Officer 2nd Class James Suh can be proud of his valiant service and selfless sacrifice in the name of freedom. He will always have the thanks of a grateful Nation.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ADAM B. SCHIFF

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 14, 2005

Mr. SCHIFF. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 358, had I been present, I would have voted "aye."

TRIBUTE TO WALTER JOHNSON
HIGH SCHOOL

HON. CHRIS VAN HOLLEN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 14, 2005

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. Speaker, it is with great honor that I rise to congratulate a high school in my District, Walter Johnson High School in Bethesda, Maryland, for winning the 2005 Washington Area "It's Academic" television quiz show Superbowl.

Walter Johnson High School is being recognized for its win in the Superbowl match, which featured regional champions Robert E. Lee High School from Central Virginia and Centennial High School from Baltimore.

The school's victory in the "It's Academic" program, which is an extracurricular activity at 81 schools across the region, demonstrates the benefits of academic competition in our schools. The hard work and commitment to academic excellence demonstrated by the students is commendable. In the midst of frequent critiques of our national education system, successes like this one highlight the great achievements of talented, intelligent young people in our schools.

As recognition for this accomplishment, the school's "It's Academic" team received a trophy, which will be displayed for the next year, and academic scholarship money for the school. The Superbowl match featured strong performances by seniors Zach Hommer and James Coan and juniors Alex Price and Adam Newman.

I commend Walter Johnson High School for its championship win and wish the "It's Academic" team continued success in future years.

IN REMEMBRANCE OF J.J. "JAKE"
PICKLE

SPEECH OF

HON. CHARLES A. GONZALEZ

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 12, 2005

Mr. GONZALEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay my respects to one of the giants of this institution and the State of Texas, a man who recently passed away, former Congressman J.J. "Jake" Pickle. Cancer finally beat him on June 18, 2005 and anyone who knew Congressman Pickle knew he did not quit on anything and fought until the end. His relentless approach to politics and life earned him the respect and admiration of the 10th Congressional District he served so well and his colleagues on both sides of the aisle. First elected in a special election in 1963, Congressman Pickle served 16 terms until stepping down in 1995. During his service in Washington, he chaired the House Subcommittee on Social Security and was instrumental in implementing improvements that ensured the trust fund's long term solvency for decades to come.

Too often, the term public servant is casually used for any person who worked in the public sector, but Congressman Pickle personified every facet of the phrase. Congressman Pickle distinguished himself in a variety of service positions, beginning as the University of Texas student body president, as a member of the National Youth Administration, and as organizational secretary for the State Democratic Executive Committee. After being elected to Congress, he relished returning to his district whenever possible and upon boarding the plane would walk up and down the aisles as if he were working a campaign rally and shake everyone's hand and talk to them. Learned at the knee of President Lyndon Baines Johnson, Congressman Pickle's politics hailed from an era still shaped by the Great Depression and small-town America, a time in which connecting with constituents was a must.

Campaigning was a full contact sport in the best sense of the phrase, and every 2 years, he would outwork much younger campaign aides and sought to meet every voter in his district. For Congressman Pickle, politics was a person-to-person enterprise, and he would talk to his constituents and find out their cares and concerns. Full of stories and a smile for everyone, he would engage every person in his path no matter if he happened upon them in the halls of the Capitol or in the streets of Austin.

Of course, his influence here in Washington greatly benefited Austin and Central Texas as he was crucial in ensuring funding for the University of Texas, his alma mater, and helped it become the world class facility it is today. Congressman Pickle fought to make sure his district and his state received their fair share. The university benefited in the millions of dollars he steered into its research, technological, and educational programs, and this was pivotal in making Austin one of our Nation's centers for high-tech enterprises such as Dell computers.

However, the vote Congressman Pickle was proudest of was the one he cast in favor of the 1964 Civil Rights Bill, which he thought would end his career. As one of six southern

Representatives who voted for that landmark piece of legislation, he thought voting his conscience and his principles would make him a one term Congressman. Thankfully that was not the case as he was given the opportunity to work tirelessly and use his unique set of skills in service of his district and Nation. We have truly lost a great American, and we are the poorer for it. Tonight, my prayers and thoughts are with the thousands of lives he touched and his family.

APPOINTMENT OF CONFEREES ON
H.R. 6, ENERGY POLICY ACT OF
2005

SPEECH OF

HON. HEATHER WILSON

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 13, 2005

Mrs. WILSON of New Mexico. Mr. Speaker, the Energy Policy Act of 2005 that recently passed the House by a vote of 249–183 included a narrowly drafted provision giving manufacturers and distributors of MTBE limited liability protections for claims based upon a defective product. I voted in favor of this legislation knowing that in conference with the Senate, MTBE compromise language would be negotiated with members from affected states that would be based on a concept of shared responsibility focused on cleanup.

MTBE has reduced smog from cars and trucks and improved air quality. But when MTBE gets in water, it smells and tastes bad and is hard to clean up, raising questions about whether we should continue to use it to produce cleaner burning gasoline.

For the last couple of weeks, I have contributed to the discussions on an MTBE compromise to recommend to the Energy conferees. I do not believe that the views of states impacted by MTBE contamination have been adequately taken into account to this point. We are no closer today to an acceptable compromise than we were 2 weeks ago. Additionally, I am greatly concerned by a draft EPA internal risk study that suggests that in high concentration, MTBE is a likely human carcinogen. This is the first indication we have had of a public health impact of MTBE.

I continue to believe that a lawsuit based system is the wrong way to address this problem. We should spend money on getting the spills cleaned up quickly rather than having a lawsuit based system where people fight in court for years and the lawyers get a big cut of the pie before any cleanup is done.

I voted in favor of the Democrat motion to instruct conferees because, at this point, I think we should move toward the Senate language and focus on solving the problem, not litigating it.

I would be willing to support an MTBE provision that would create a joint industry/government financed MTBE remediation trust fund that would cover state and local government remediation costs. But industry's contribution must be mandatory and the government's contribution must be guaranteed and not subject to appropriations.

CELEBRATING 100 YEARS AT
DENTON MUNICIPAL ELECTRIC

HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 14, 2005

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Denton Municipal Electric as it celebrates 100 years in the 26th District of Texas. Denton Municipal Electric has been serving the Denton community since 1905 when the city purchased the utility from Denton Water, Light and Power Company.

Since its start, Denton Municipal Electric has grown from serving fewer than 100 residents of downtown Denton to presently providing full electrical service to more than 37,000 customers over 300 miles of overhead power lines, 130 miles of underground cables and over 6,000 transformers. They provide various consumer-friendly programs including allowing customers to pledge money to their monthly bills to assist other customers with short-term financial problems, and incentive programs that credit customers' accounts for installing high-efficiency air conditioners or heat pumps.

Denton Municipal Electric, along with providing safe, reliable and cost-effective electricity to its citizens, participates in numerous programs and activities in the Denton Community, including Hope for Kids, School-to-Careers, Communities in Schools, the Juneteenth Celebrations, Senior Citizen Safety Workshops, Electrical Demonstrations, Keep Denton Beautiful and Christmas decorating around the historic downtown square.

Mr. Speaker, it is with great honor that I stand here today to honor Denton Municipal Electric for its commitment to playing an active role in the development, improvement and success of the Denton community.

HONORING THE W.K. KELLOGG
FOUNDATION ON THEIR 75TH AN-
NIVERSARY

HON. JOHN J.H. "JOE" SCHWARZ

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 14, 2005

Mr. SCHWARZ of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to call attention to an organization in my district that is known world-wide for its tireless dedication to altruism, education, and the betterment of society as a whole. The W.K. Kellogg Foundation was established by breakfast cereal pioneer W.K. Kellogg in 1930, to "help people help themselves." During his life, Mr. Kellogg left most of his fortune—\$66 million in Kellogg Company stock and other investments—as an endowment for the foundation. These assets have since grown to nearly \$7 billion. Since 1930, the foundation has awarded more than \$4 billion in grants—including \$1.6 billion to the people of Michigan.

Since the 1930s, the Kellogg Foundation has grown from programs that served south-central Michigan into an international organization that awards grants in the United States, Latin America and the Caribbean, and southern Africa. Yet whether in Battle Creek or Botswana, the Kellogg Foundation's emphasis remains just as it was in Mr. Kellogg's day: they

exist to help people reach their full potential, and to build strong families and communities.

Though they have expanded internationally, the Kellogg Foundation remains committed to Mr. Kellogg's and my hometown of Battle Creek, Michigan. Last year alone, they awarded \$9.4 million to local causes and programs. They are also a major local employer, and their employees generously volunteer their time and resources within the community.

In its 75 years of existence, the W.K. Kellogg Foundation has built a legacy of philanthropy and selflessness. The work that they fund has improved the lives of millions. I am deeply honored to have this institution in my district, and I ask my colleagues to join me in celebrating its 75th anniversary.

THE WAGES OF FAILURE ON WALL
STREET

HON. BARNEY FRANK

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 14, 2005

Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts. Mr. Speaker, one of the gravest weaknesses in our financial system is the growing pattern of grossly excessive compensation which the leaders of some major firms are paying themselves, with the acquiescence of passive boards of directors. The issues raised by the extraordinarily large pay packages some top executives are granting themselves go beyond simply the inappropriateness of people enriching themselves at the expense of their stockholders and their employees. Increasing inequality in income distribution in this country has broader policy implications, and there is also the growing problem of perverse incentives that result from executives receiving grossly disproportionate compensation based on decisions they themselves take. That is, it is clear that some of the accounting abuses we have seen, and some decisions to sell large companies to others are being influenced not by the basic economics of these situations, but by the extent to which top decision-makers personally profit from these decisions.

One of the most egregious recent examples is the \$32 million payment made to the co-president of Morgan Stanley, Stephen Crawford, for work of only a few months as part of the upheaval that led to the ouster of Philip Purcell. In the New York Times on Wednesday, July 13, there is an excellent editorial on this subject, which notes that "stockholders and employees are properly seething at the deal cut for Mr. Crawford . . . by a board that was oblivious to protecting the bank's reputation as it over-rewarded his fealty to Philip Purcell . . ."

Mr. Speaker, I believe that this is a subject which Congress must address. In particular, we must act to find ways to press boards of directors to do more to safeguard stockholders and employees from excessive compensation abuse, and we should in particular be looking at ways to curb the extent to which these sorts of compensation schemes based on various contingencies give perverse incentives to decision-makers. I and others on the Financial Services Committee will be offering some legislative proposals in this regard, and I offer the New York Times editorial here for Members' edification as an example of why some action is necessary in this regard.

[From the New York Times, July 13, 2005]

THE WAGES OF FAILURE ON WALL STREET

Words like golden parachute hardly do justice to the stunning \$32 million worth of a not-so-fond adieu engineered at Morgan Stanley, the troubled Wall Street securities giant, for its departing co-president, Stephen Crawford. Stockholders and employees are properly seething at the deal cut for Mr. Crawford—after a mere three months on the job—by a board that was oblivious to protecting the bank's reputation as it over-rewarded his fealty to Philip Purcell, the chief executive who was driven out in a messy power struggle last month.

The board majority appointed by Mr. Purcell opened the bidding on failure's rewards by ushering Mr. Purcell to the exit with a \$43 million sweetener. Now others from his team of loyalists—sycophants is the term outraged critics prefer—are lining up to walk the platinum plank behind Mr. Crawford, who never ran a business division at the bank yet rose to the top as Mr. Purcell's attentive protégé.

Mere groundlings juggling finances at their neighborhood A.T.M.'s must pause slack-jawed at how Wall Street insiders are so ludicrously compensated for plain failure at steering their companies. Few of life's losers land so affluently.

The repair task now falls to John Mack, the new chief executive and Morgan Stanley veteran. Facing a furor among stockholders and staff over the severance machinations, Mr. Mack had second thoughts about his own guaranteed salary of up to \$25 million, so he is instead invoking a merit-pay standard for himself. This amounts to innovation at Morgan Stanley, where dozens of bankers, traders and managers quit when the Purcell team ascended and ensconced their own in top positions even as the bank lagged behind its competitors.

Mr. Mack is already seeking the return of the more respected departees who ran profitable divisions. He has retained the other Purcell co-president, Zoe Cruz; she was smart enough to turn down the board's garish compensation package.

The new chief won't get far with recovery, however, unless he impresses workers and investors with a fresh dedication to merit. That has to begin with the departure of the current directors—on terms worth no more than their true value in having compounded the turmoil at Morgan Stanley.

VETERANS' COMPENSATION COST-OF-LIVING ADJUSTMENT ACT OF 2005

SPEECH OF

HON. GENE GREEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 13, 2005

Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to offer my support for this bill, but also to voice my concerns with the Leadership and Administration's handling of other veterans' issues. This bill is recognized by members on both sides of the aisle as necessary to ensure veterans' compensation is adjusted regularly each year to keep up with inflation and other market trends by linking the increase to that of the Social Security COLA, which is based on changes in the Consumer Price Index.

This is a common-sense approach to ensure veterans' compensation keeps pace with the cost of living. It would make sense then

that a similar approach would be taken using an appropriate formula to determine funding levels for other programs such as VA healthcare. Instead, House Leadership has refused to move legislation for the last three Congresses to reform the discretionary budget-appropriations process for VA healthcare, and the result is the current funding crisis that the VA is experiencing.

Less than two weeks after first telling Congress it could ride out the fiscal year with inadequate funding, then reversing and asking for \$975 million in supplemental funds, the Administration admitted this week that it needs yet another \$300 million to take care of veterans' health care needs through September. Had this House followed the Senate's lead and appropriated \$1.5 million in emergency VA funding, we would have already covered the second shortfall just recently acknowledged by the White House, and the VA would have the funds to resume providing healthcare to our Nation's veterans.

Instead, while the differing supplemental measures wait to be reconciled, more than 50,000 veterans await health care appointments, clinical positions across the VA are not being filled, VA hospitals are deferring critical equipment purchases, there are shortages of medical supplies in some locations and the number of veterans of the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan seeking services at VA hospitals continues to rise.

The 2006 budget request was similarly short. What is even more troubling is that funding for veterans' health care beyond 2007 is cut significantly below the amount needed merely to account for inflation.

In a recent letter to House Veterans' Affairs Committee Chairman Steve Buyer, the directors of nine Veterans' Service Organizations pointed out that VA employees in VA facilities are denying and rationing care to tens of thousands of fully eligible veterans, even those with service-connected disabilities, serious chronic illnesses and deteriorating health.

These organizations also stated that veterans are being told they are not eligible for nursing home care when they are absolutely eligible by law. They are told that visits to VA and contract mental health practitioners must be limited to one visit per month irrespective of diagnosis or intensity of need. Veterans are told they cannot be seen for routine physical examinations or preventive visits because they are not "authorized" to receive such care. Veterans are told if they fail to appear for scheduled appointments, they will be dropped from VA rolls altogether and must re-apply for enrollment from the back of the line. While forcing untold numbers of veterans to wait unconscionable periods, VA denies the existence of a waiting list.

Mr. Speaker, this is deplorable. If the VA cannot provide healthcare to the veterans currently needing care, how can they take care of the men and women coming back from Iraq and Afghanistan requiring care?

I urge the Veterans' Affairs Committee and the House Leadership to take steps to address this problem so that we are not faced with similar problems in the future. Our veterans have served their country bravely and deserve better than this.

COMMEMORATING 60TH ANNIVERSARY OF CONCLUSION OF WAR IN THE PACIFIC AND HONORING VETERANS OF BOTH PACIFIC AND ATLANTIC THEATERS OF SECOND WORLD WAR

SPEECH OF

HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 13, 2005

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H. Con. Res. 191, a resolution to commemorate the 60th anniversary of the conclusion of the war in the Pacific and to honor veterans of both the Pacific and Atlantic theaters of the Second World War. It is profoundly important that we remember the sacrifices our troops made in those terrible times. But more than remembering, we must convey the gratitude due to those soldiers who risked their lives in the defense of the innocent, the protection of freedom, and in the name of our great country.

To build a prosperous future, we must work to appreciate our past. It has not always been a peaceful one. From our country's founding over two centuries ago, American soldiers have engaged in many battles to defend our Nation and our way of life. Whether the call has been the defense of democracy, the ending of tyranny, or the protection of innocent civilians all over the world, American soldiers have answered with dignity and honor. This resolution reflects a will to remember the countless sacrifices of our soldiers in one of the most terrible wars of our history.

Aristotle wrote, "We make war that we may live in peace." Never was the need to engage greater than for President Roosevelt's America some 65 years ago. The spread of Nazism led our troops over the Atlantic into the first of what would soon be two major theaters of war. Our Armed Forces crossed the Atlantic to join the allies in an assault of Germany. Then, after the atrocious attack on Pearl Harbor in December 1941, they crossed the Pacific to engage the Japanese. These dark times witnessed monumental loss of life and called for the greatest levels of sacrifice, both from the troops and the families they left behind. Yet our spirit never wavered, and this country survived one of its greatest tests.

Mr. Speaker, we owe so much of this survival to the quality of our troops. They protected us then as they always have—with honor, courage and resilience. As we enjoy the freedoms afforded to this great Nation, we must remember and celebrate the achievements of our veterans. We are forever grateful for their gift of peace. This is a gift we will never be able to fully repay, but one that continues to engender respect and gratitude. It is the spirit of gratitude that gives birth to this resolution, and in that spirit I am privileged to offer my full support.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. LUIS V. GUTIERREZ

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 14, 2005

Mr. GUTIERREZ. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably absent from this chamber on July

11, 2005. I would like the record to show that, had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on rollcall votes No. 363 and No. 364.

CONGRATULATING SGT. LEIGH ANN HESTER, FIRST WOMAN AWARDED THE SILVER STAR MEDAL SINCE WORLD WAR II

HON. JIM COOPER

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 14, 2005

Mr. COOPER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate U.S. Army Sgt. Leigh Ann Hester, a recent recipient of the Silver Star Medal—the Army's third highest award for valor in combat.

On June 16 in Iraq, 23-year-old Sgt. Hester became the first female soldier to be awarded the prestigious Silver Star Medal in more than 60 years. At the awards ceremony at Camp Liberty, Sgt. Hester was recognized "for exceptionally valorous achievement" during Operation Iraqi Freedom.

Sgt. Hester serves in the 617th Military Police Company, a National Guard unit from Kentucky, and was working in my hometown of Nashville when she was called to duty. Sgt. Hester comes from a family dedicated to serving our country and fighting for freedom on foreign soil. Her grandfather won a Bronze Star in World War II. Her uncle served valiantly in Vietnam. When asked about her service in Iraq and her Silver Star, Sgt. Hester told one newspaper that she was simply "doing my job like any other soldier here."

On March 20th, while her unit was being ambushed by enemy fire and under counter attack, Sgt. Hester helped to thwart an insurgent assault against a convoy of 26 supply vehicles that were ambushed by about 50 insurgents, southeast of Baghdad. According to an Army account, "[Sgt.] Hester led her team through the 'kill zone' and into a flanking position, where she assaulted a trench line with grenades and M203 grenade-launcher rounds." Sgt. Hester killed at least three insurgents according to her award citation.

We honor Sgt. Hester now because the "job" she chose to do on March 20th was one so many Americans before her have also selflessly chosen: she put the lives of her fellow soldiers before her own. Her bravery distinguished her that day, just as her love of country and passion for freedom led her to join the National Guard in April of 2001.

Sgt. Hester has said she is looking forward to the day when her service in Iraq will be complete. She is looking forward to spend time with family and friends and her hopes for a new career. Sgt. Hester wants to continue to protect the lives of others when she comes home. She plans to pursue a career in law enforcement, a goal she has had since she was a child.

On behalf of the 5th District of Tennessee and the members of the House of Representatives, I thank Sgt. Leigh Ann Hester for her commitment to service—service to her country, her community and her fellow soldiers on the field of battle. I am honored to salute her today for her courage and her achievements. My thoughts and gratitude go out to her, her family and all of our men and women in combat who work to protect this Nation and bring peace to the world. And I look forward to the

day when I can join with her friends and family in welcoming her back home.

HONORING ELSIE MELOCHE

HON. GINNY BROWN-WAITE

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 14, 2005

Ms. GINNY BROWN-WAITE of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Elsie Meloche, a resident of the 5th Congressional District of Florida, and a woman who has achieved a great deal in her long life. On July 19, 2005 Elsie Meloche will be 102.

Mrs. Meloche was born in Leipzig, Germany but immigrated to the United States through Ellis Island on February 16, 1909. She moved with her family to Massachusetts shortly thereafter, making their home in Holyoke. Mrs. Meloche married Wilford B. Meloche and in 1972, moved to St. Petersburg, Florida where she made her home until 2003 and then moved to Arbor Trail in Inverness, Florida.

During her lifetime, Mrs. Meloche worked many different jobs before retiring from Westover Air Force Base in Chicopee, Massachusetts. With her free time she currently enjoys dancing, bingo, and reading a good book.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you join me in honoring Elsie Meloche today. I hope we all have the good fortune to live as long as she has and with as much enjoyment. She is truly a remarkable woman and someone with an appreciation for the importance of friends, family, and happiness.